



NEWS RELEASE

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Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County Celebrates Weatherization Day 2004

(San Bernardino, CA) The Department of Energy (DOE) recently announced that October 30, 2004 will be known nationally as "Weatherization Day 2004." The dedication of this day celebrates the wonderful accomplishments of the excellent federal, state and local partnership. This program has helped thousands of needy families to conserve energy and reduce their energy costs for heating, cooling and electricity.

Soon most families across the San Bernardino County will be turning up their thermostats to combat dropping temperatures. For low-income families, however, cranking up the heat is not always an option. These families pay 14% or more of their annual incomes for energy compared with only 3.5% for other non low-income families. Unable to pay gaping balances or hefty re-connection fees, some families are considering how they will survive this winter without heat.

Since the creation of Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County's (CAPSBC) Weatherization and Energy Conservation Program in 1978, approximately 100,000 homes have been weatherized across San Bernardino County. These households save an average of \$218 at current prices annually on their energy bills after the weatherization work is completed. The dollar savings alone makes a big difference for the families. In addition, Weatherization makes the home warmer and safer.

CAPSBC will celebrate Weatherization Day by recognizing its staff who work in the homes of low-income families throughout the county. CAPSBC's Weatherization Program will also receive a resolution from the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors that officially recognizes October 30 as Weatherization Day 2004 in San Bernardino County.

According to the DOE National Weatherization Office, staff from more than 970 local Community Action Agencies (CAA) around the country are hard at work in homes of truly needy families making a real difference in their lives. For many of these families, the money is so stretched that they must make hard decisions about heating their homes or eating.

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October is also designated as Energy Awareness Month. Each year the DOE uses the onset of winter to promote energy conservation, renewable energy and new technology used in the energy industry. With the higher cost of fuel oil, the rising process in natural gas and the ever-fluctuating electric process occurring due to market restructuring, celebrating a successful conservation program like the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is essential.

Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County (CAPSBC) is a private non-profit public benefit corporation. CAPSBC is one of the 1,000 Community Action Agencies nationwide dedicated to assisting low-income individuals and families become stable and self-sufficient. The vision of CAPSBC is “thinking globally, acting locally to build healthy communities one family at a time. CAPSBC is charged with serving over 800,000 low-income families and individuals, elderly, homeless and disadvantaged residents of San Bernardino County each year.

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